A True ACCOUNT of the
BEHAVIOUR, CONFESSION,
AND
Laſt Dying SPEECHES
Of the *Six* Criminals that were Executed at
TYBURN,
On *Friday* the 12th of *September*, 1690.

AT the Seſſions in the *Old Baily*, on the 5th. of *September*, 16 0. an eleven perſons received the Sentence of Death, ſix Men and five Women, of which three were Quick with Child.

On the next Day, being *Saturday*, the Ordinary viſited the condemned Criminal, praying with them, and earneſtly exhorting them to look back on the the Vicious Courſe of their Life, and to conſider for what ſecret Sins, not repented of, God had juſtly ſuffered them to commit the Crimes for which they were under the Sentence of Death.

They were not then ſo ſenſible of their ſinful and deplorable Condition; therefore Exhortation to Repentance was renewed, as alſo to prepare for the ſolemn Duties of the Sabbath.

On the Lord's Day, in the Forenoon, the Text was in the 5th of S. *Matthew's* Goſpel and the 8th Verſe, *Bleſſed are the pure in heart, for they ſhall ſee God.*

In the Afternoon a Sermon was preached on the 59 and 60th Verſes of the 119th *Pſalm. I conſidered my ways and turned my feet into thy teſtimonies. I made haſte and delayed not to keep thy Commandments.*

From the former part of which Words were ſtated the ſyncere ſigns of a penitential Reflection on a ſinful Life.

The Divine Law caſts down all proud Thoughts, in a ſyncere Convict, ſo that he ſubmits to the ſearching Power thereof, that he may throughly underſtand his deceitful Heart. He loves the Law of God, becauſe it is very pure and ſtrict, as diſturbing falſe Peace in the Conſcience.

Where there is a Horror and Conviction there will be an unfeigned Grief for offending God's Holy Spirit, and an univerſal Hatred of all Sin as Sin, more as it pollutes than damns, put therefore your ſelves to Grief and Shame, chiefly for perverting the Long-ſuffering of God, who hath waited ſo long to be gracious to you; you have already, in exceſs, turned away your Hearts from God to the indulging of your Luſts: It is high Time to abandon Satan's Service. When Sin by Cuſtom becomes rooted, the Power and Kingdom of Satan is more confirmed: Reſolve therefore immediately to convert to God, late Repentance is not ſo acceptable, becauſe herein the Lord is leſs glorified. It is not ſo profitable to others, who loſe much Edification, by not ſetting early good Example before them. It is not ſo comfortable to your ſelves, not only becauſe you wreſtle with more difficulties, as the Heart is grown more obdurately ſtubborn, *but* becauſe you cannot ſo fully clear up your ſyncerity in turning your Feet unto God's Teſtimonies.

There is little tryal of the Truth of Repentance, when we are forced in to God by ſharp Afflictions or Agonies of Terror, at the *Approach of Death*. As ſoon as you reſolve to change your evil Courſe, all your endeavours will have Acceptance with God, he will be ready to help you, if you purſue your Advantages, the Work will grow eaſier, ſo that after a while you ſhall be enabled to run the paths of God's Commandments with pleaſure and delight: Let us therefore caſt away the Sin which ſo eaſily beſets us, let us ſpeedily and reſolutely run the race of Obedience ſet before us, *looking unto Jeſus the Author and finiſher of our Faith*; ſo ſhall we triumph in the very Conflict. What unſpeakable Joy will this Teſtimony of our Conſcience produce, that we have ſo ſeriouſly conſidered our Ways as ſeriouſly to turn our Feet into God's Teſtimonies.

I now proceed to give an Account of the condemned Priſoners Behaviour, what courſe of Life they led, and what penitential Diſpoſitions were in them to fit them for their Death.

I. *Francis Osborne*, Condemned for robbing on the Highway: He was a Goldſmith, by Trade, in *Cannon-ſtreet* above 7. Years. He confeſt the Crime to the Ordinary, though he denied it at his Tryal. He ſaid that it much troubled his Conſcience that he drew on the other Accomplices to the ſaid Robbery, but would not declare their Names. He confeſt that for his many ſecret Sins, in which he lived without any Remorſe, and for keeping bad Company, God had now brought him to publick Shame: That he neglected praying and other Duties of Religion, otherwiſe the Lord had kept him from robbing; but affirmed that this was the firſt Fact of that nature. He was very compliant with the Advice which I gave him to prepare for his Death.

II. *G*—— *W*—— condemned for robbing on the Highway. He confeſt the Crime, I askt him what Employment he had been bred up to; he ſaid that he had ſerved the late King *James* as a Trooper, and had ſerved our preſent King *William*, but ſome difference ariſing 'twixt him and his ſuperior Officer, he quitted the Service about a quarter of the Year ſince, which he much blames himſelf for, becauſe an idle Life had expoſed him to robbing on the Highway. He was not ſo ſenſible at the firſt, yet afterward lamented the ill Courſe of his Life, and that he had given bad counſel and example to others.

III. *Thomas* [illegible], condemned for ſtealing a Gelding: He confeſt the Fact. He had exerciſed Husbandry, in the Service of a Miniſter, for three Years. He ſays, It repents him that he did not follow the good Counſel of his religious Maſter, but left him and went to Sea, afterwards being deſirous of an eaſie Life, he quitted that Employment and joyned with bad Company, till he brake the Sabbath: He ſeldom prayed that God would keep him from the Wickedneſs of his own Heart, ſo he grew more diſſolute.

IV. *John Dayster*, condemned for breaking the Houſe of one Mr. *Joſeph Yates*, in the Day-time. He was formerly a Shoemaker, ſet up for himſelf, but neglected his Trade and joyned himſelf to merry Company, as himſelf expreſt it, they ſpent freely and bore his ſhare moſt what. He ſaid, That he had ſinned againſt the clear and ſtrong Convictions of his Conſcience, had made many Vows to God of Reforming his Life, but had broken them: Yet in this Conceſſion, though he wept, he acknowledged that his Tears and utmoſt *Repentance* could not cleanſe away the Guilt and Pollution of his Sins. He ſaid that he durſt not truſt his own Heart, his relenting for Sin is ſo late and ſlight, and prayes to God, that his ſorrow, may not be more for the Fear of Death, than that he hath offended a Gracious and long ſuffering God. I hope he was penitent.

V. *James Smith*, condemned for robbing in the Highway, with *G*—— *W*——: when he was tyed up, in order to receive the Sentence of Death, he exceedingly misbehaved himſelf. The Ordinary laid this very much to his Conſcience, ſo that he deſired him, to publiſh his deep Sorrow for it, and that he begs the Pardon of the Court for his mad and wicked Carriage. He confeſſes the Crime, and that his Friends bred him up to no Employment, ſo he hath been expoſed to many Temptaons of Robbing, and hath ſeveral Times uſed ſuch a wicked Courſe, to furniſh himſelf with Mony for his Exceſſes. He ſolemnly affirmed, that he never killed any Man: That he is very ſenſible how he hath drawn on others to ſinning: He ſaid that he had been very diſobedient to his Parents, and therefore God juſtly brought him to this [illegible] Death. That he diſpiſed [illegible] was guilty of [illegible] Intemperance, breaking of the Sabbath, and living like an Athiſt; but now his Conſcience is wounded in the remembrance of all his Impieties, yet he hopes, through God's Mercy, that he ſhall be daily more contrite in Heart, and prepared for his Death.

VII. *Thomas Cox*, condemned for robbing [illegible] on *Hounſlow-heath*, he denied the Crime at his Tryal, but confeſt it ſince to the Ordinary. After ſeveral Viſits and earneſt Exhortations to repent, he confeſſed that he had been in *Newgate* about four Years ſince, and was condemned for killing a Man. I told him, That had he taken warning from his narrow eſcaping the Sentence of Death then, or had he been truly penitent for ſhedding Innocent Blood, which cries loud to Heaven for Vengeance, he would not have contracted another fatal Crime. He only acknowledged in general terms, That he had been a great ſinner, that he had led an idle Life, which betrayed him to many ſinful Exceſſes. He gave me juſt cauſe to fear he was bred up a Papiſt, or had turned ſuch for worldly Intereſt. Therefore I uſed many Arguments to convince him, how dangerous it is to die in a falſe Religion, or in not living up to the Purity and Power of the Proteſtant. When I viſited him in the Evening before his Death, I askt him whether he were a Papiſt, he ſo little regarded what I prayed or exhorted him unto, he made me no anſwer, and ſeemed not much concerned, therefore I ſaid at parting, the Lord undeceive you as to any falſe Hopes of Heaven.

[illegible] *Yates* and *Mary Jones* were very penitent, and are reprieved.

This is the whole Account which I can give of this Seſſion.

Dated this 14th
of *Septem.* *Samuel Smith* Ordinary.
1690.

On *Friday* about 10 a Clock they were all 6 conveyed in 2 Carts to the Place of Execution, where being all faſtned to the Tree, they were (in good order) exhorted to renew their Repentance, and to prepare themſelves for their ſo ſuddain Change by Death, Mr. Ordinary taking great pains in Prayer to God for their Souls Salvation, uſing ſeveral cogent Arguments to prepare them to a free Confeſſion unto Almighty God of all their former miſpent Lives; to which they all readily attended except *Cox* and *W*—— who were very impertinent in their Behaviour, and undecently and irreverently reflected upon the Government; for which the Ordinary gave them a ſuddain and a ſevere Check, and would not ſuffer them to proceed.

James Smith carried himſelf more moderate, and confeſſed, That he was Guilty of the Crime for which he died, but that he never committed any Murther, deſiring all the Spectators to take Warning by his untimely End; and that they would be obedient to *Parents*, for that Sin was the beginning of his Ruine.

John Daynter was exceeding penitent: He was a young Man, yet it is to be hoped that God hath had Mercy on his Soul, for he freely confeſſed, That he had been guilty of very great Sins, as Sabbath breaking, Swearing, Lying, Drunkenneſs, and a great Whoremonger: But withal he declared before God and the World, That he never wronged any Man before this Time. He cried mightily to God for Mercy, and begged all young Men to take ſpeedy Warning by his untimely End; earneſtly deſiring all Men preſent to pray for him: He very penitently and humbly joyned in the Prayers of the Church, as alſo was very deſirious to be inſtructed in any thin that might contribute to his Salvation, and ve meekly ſubmitted to the ſtroak of ſo ſuddain a Dea But not without acknowledging, That he was i debted to ſeveral perſons in divers Sums of Mony, b ſaying, He was now altogether uncapable of makin Reſtitution; he hoped that they would remit him, &c.

Tho. Tarrold ſaid, That he offered to ſell a Hor to one Mr. *Ball*, but ſaid he did not ſteal it, befor he was brought to *Tyburn*; but there he confeſt but he ſaid he did not know the Owners Name, b deſired the Horſe might be returned to *Fitton*, *Ampthill Town* in *Bedfordſhire*, And ſaid he was ve ſorry he had done ſo much wrong, *&c.* acknowledging withal, That he had married an honeſt Wife but had ſome time ſince put her away; and had bee of late in Adultery. He deſired the people to pray for him, and take warning by him.

Francis Oſborne was very ſorry that he had diſgrac'd ſo good and ingenious a profeſſion as his was; declaring that this Crime was the firſt that ever he did o that nature, but would not freely acknowledg, nor give any account of the other two, who were concerned with him in the Robbery.

After this Mr. Ordinary prayed with them, and ſang a Pſalm of Penitency; to which *Daynter*, *Tarrold*, *Osborn*, and *Smith* gave an attentive Ear. After Mr. Ordinary taking his final leave of them, and recommending them all to God's Grace and Mercy, they were all ſix immediately turned off.

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